

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 1:04 PM
To: Collins, Carly; Lilley, Bliss
Subject: FW: CapX2020 Project
Attachments: RUS NEPA Process Fact Sheet.pdf; ATT00001.txt

-----Original Message-----

From: horsefly@integra.net [mailto:horsefly@integra.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 9:39 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Re: CapX2020 Project

Dear Ms. Strength,
I am a bit confused about the project and the area that is noted in your email.

I-259-001 On my ignorance, but is Webster Township, Rice County, MN part of the Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse line, or is it another segment? The scope of the project has my head spinning, and I want to be sure that the comments that I have raised, as well as the comments of my neighbors and friends, are attached to the appropriate route. (Although, likely, the concerns are "route wide".)

I-259-002 Also, I am confused about the deadline and whether it applies to the segment that we live in.

Thank you for taking the time to email, your effort is truly appreciated.
Sincerely,
Anastasia Balfany

On Jul 28, 2009, at 8:08 AM, Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC wrote:

> Your comments on the CapX 2020 Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse 345-kV
> Transmission Line Proposal have been received.
> All comments will be analyzed and summarized in a public scoping
> report, which will be posted on the following web address in
> approximately 60 days:
>
> <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm#Dairyland%20Power%20Cooperative,%20Inc>
> .
>
> The scoping comment period is now closed. Please see the attached
> timeline for future public comment opportunities in the
> Environmental Impact Statement process.
> If you have further comments or questions please send them to:
>
> Stephanie A. Strength
> Environmental Protection Specialist/RD
> 1400 Independence Ave. SW Room # 2244
> Washington, DC 20250-1571
> stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov
>
>

I-259-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project in Webster Township with which you have raised concerns.

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-259-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-259-001.

>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: horsefly@integra.net [mailto:horsefly@integra.net]
> Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2009 3:05 PM
> To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
> Subject: CapX2020 Project
>
> Dear Ms. Strength,
> I am strongly opposed to the CapX2020 project, and have attached a
> letter documenting some of my concerns, and specifically the use of
> 50th Street as an alternative route for the project.
> I want to be sure to note that I feel that both 50th Street and 57th
> Street in Webster, MN (Rice County) are unsuitable for identical
> reasons, with 50th Street slightly more so, due to the even closer
> proximity to the Sky Harbor Airpark.
> Again, thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to call
> or email with any questions or comments.
> Sincerely,
> Anastasia Balfany
> 3720 50th Street West
> Webster, MN 55088
> 952-652-2786
>



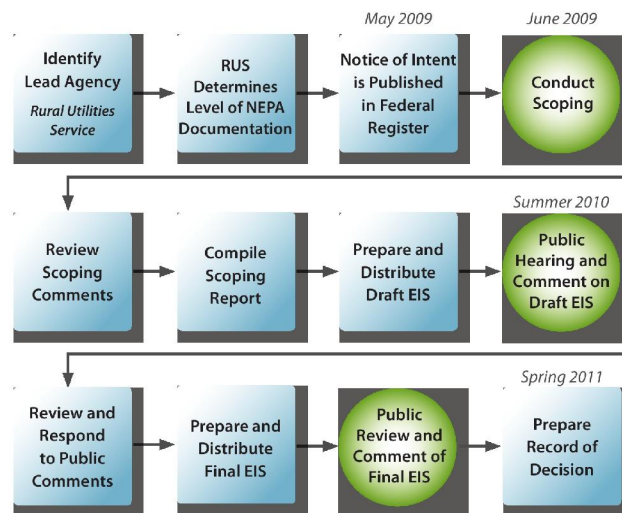
FEDERAL REVIEW PROCESS

Dairyland Power Cooperative has requested financial assistance from Rural Utilities Service (RUS), a federal agency that administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Programs, for its anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

RUS and other federal agencies involved in the NEPA review will jointly prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Each federal agency will independently develop its own decision document. The EIS preparation process is detailed below.

The NEPA process evaluates the project's potential affects on environmental resources, such as:

- land use
- threatened and endangered species
- wetlands
- cultural and historic properties
- socioeconomics
- scenic areas



www.usda.gov/rus

The table below shows permit, regulatory compliance or other coordination required by federal agencies.

Agency	Permit, regulatory compliance, or other coordination
RUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Evaluation Study and Macro-Corridor Study • NEPA Compliance
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 10 Permit of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) for crossing the Mississippi River
USACE and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationwide permit or individual permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977
U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (Form AD-1006)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use authorization if right-of-way required on National Wildlife Refuge or Wetland Management District lands (Standard Form 299) and Special Use Permit if crossing National Wildlife Refuge • Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531–1544; 50 C.F.R. 22 consultation) • Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668, 50 C.F.R. 22) • Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 701–712)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form 7460–1, Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace
National Park Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation: Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act 1968 (if proposal affects federally designated areas)

Public scoping

The RUS NEPA process provides several opportunities for public review and comment (identified in green on the NEPA process graphic). The CapX2020 utilities had several rounds of public information meetings prior to the NEPA scoping meetings; public comments received at those meetings were considered in corridor development and route option identification. Public comments received at scoping meetings will be recorded as part of the project record.

The NEPA scoping process serves multiple goals for the proposed project, including:

- Soliciting public comments
- Discovering alternatives to a proposed action (preferred route)
- Identifying significant impacts
- Eliminating insignificant issues
- Communicating information
- Consulting with agencies and organizations

Track EIS development, download comment forms, and access all public documentation at the RUS Web site, <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

Please contact Stephanie Strength for more information:
 USDA, Rural Utilities Service
 1400 Independence Ave. SW, MAIL STOP 1571
 Washington, DC 20250-1571

